

APRIL-FOOL

#49

FEBRUARY 1991

12TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

TO WAR, TO WAR!
FREEDONIA'S GOING TO WAR!

ALL GOD'S
CHILLUN
GOT GUNS!

... AND REMEMBER,
WHILE YOU'RE OUT
THERE RISKING
LIFE AND LIMB,
THROUGH
SHOT
AND
SHELL,
WE'LL BE
IN HERE,
THINKING
WHAT A
SUCKER
YOU ARE!

TO WAR, TO WAR, TO WAR
WE'RE GONNA GO! OH,
HI-DE, HI-DE, HI-DE,
HI-DE, HI-DE, HI-DE-HO!



SING SPIEL

49th Stanza, APA-Filk #49 / Mark L. Blackman, 1745 E 18th St.
#4A, Brooklyn, NY 11229 / Nov 20, 1990; Jan 13-14;19;28, 1991

Philcsinging> While I didn't get to the "official" filksinging at Philcon, Saturday evening in the SFWA Suite, I joined Esther Friesner, Josepha Sherman, et al. in a chorus of "Deck Us All with Boston Charlie". Sunday, for the first time, I attended a Philcon Dead Dog Party; with the Con Suite head (Carol Kabakjian) a filker (& Chair of ConCerto), there was soon a filksing in one corner.

& ----- **THE MELODY LINGERS** : Comments on APA-Filk #47 ----- &

COLLAGE COVER/Boardman: Enjoyed. // That is a new chorus of "Deck Us All with Boston Charlie". // Ergot did cause outbreaks of mania during the Middle Ages.

JERSEY FLATS/Robertta Rogow: Re Non Digeo, you came, saw and went to the zoo.

SUBWAY RIDER'S PRAYER/Mike Browne knows; he works for the NYCTA.

DC AL FINE/Mike Stein: Thanks for the ConFiction report. Were the other US filkers Mikes Browne & Rubin? # Zagreb had the support of many Eurofans - it's cheaper for them to get to than Phoenix. (Hawaii had the support of yuppie SMOFs.) # England has the same problem as the US - a decade of conservative govt. The other European cities' housing shortage is due largely to overcrowding; nevertheless, unlike here, people needn't die because they can't afford medical care. // Sodom Hussein is not significantly worse than those Bush welcomes as allies, like Syria's Assad; Saudi Arabia & Kuwait have bankrolled terrorists for years. And Saddam himself was "our buddy from just last July" (Mark Russell), built up by the US against Iran. // Re "concert slut", what was "slut" doing in Tera's user-dictionary, hmm? // ct Boardman> Good point re pacifism. # Would Lincoln have needed a declaration of war as the Confederacy was NOT a sovereign nation? One could call the Civil War a "police action". Btw, the Confederacy instituted a draft a year before the Union and it too favored the rich, exempting large slaveholders. // A Mister Boffo (in March) depicted a bathtowel-wrapped alien & her husband showing up to beat up a Hubblescope astronomer. Just as our evangelists peer into our bedrooms, presumably theirs do theirs.

SING, WHO ME?/Deb Wunder: I refer you also to John Boardman's "My God(s), How the Dragons Roll [or Roar] In" in APA-Filk #2,4. # You mean as I've already done for "That Real Old-Time Religion". I've given a copy to John, and will probably run it in #50. // Thanks for the Encore piece. // ct me> I think so, but Barry is old news. // Still, there is something about the National Anthem being a filk (by Francis Scott Off-Key); see the Cover of APA-Filk #19.

GROUCHO LYRIC SHEET/Marc Glasser: Thanks for including this. I'm sorry you omitted "Hail, Hail Freedonia" & "Freedonia's Going to War" (sadly relevant, with floppy ears & a long trunk). // "I Always Get My Man" is a separate song.

ANAKREON/John Boardman: Real Old-Time Religion> So we pass 666 verses. # Dyslexic witches can't spell? # Pagans in the military isn't so odd when one remembers how many bloodthirsty deities there are; if they're Wiccans, however, they're as hypocritical as the peace-professing Christians. # So "Wiccan" rhymes with "bitchin'". // An Irish singer should be well aware of the passions that cause hatred & war. # There's a street in Hoboken named after that singer, and a way-out-of-proportion fuss was made over his 75th birthday. // The Blue Adept is a hero in a Piers Anthony series. Tsadaka is Yiddish for charity (righteousness). // The War with Iraq, before it began, spawned Mark Russell's "Peace Song for the '90s" (to the tune of "Blowin' in the Wind"), from which I excerpt:

How many Walls must we build on the Mall / Before this lesson we learn? ...

How many dollars must we all scrape / To-gether in order to buy
A desert campaign / To bring down Hussein, / Our buddy from just last July?

How many times must we sing this dumb song / From the '60s, the decade of
doubt? / The troops you can thank / For the gas in your tank.
Self-serving is what it's about.

The peace movement, however, became quieter once the war began, and the unprovoked bombing of Israel converted some. All for now. I'll be at Lunacon. *mb*

ANAKREON

10, APA-Filk Mailing #49

1 February 1991

SUSAN MOLINARI'S* SONG

(Tune: Sir Joseph Porter's Song, H. M. S. Pinafore)

When I was a girl, my daddy said,
"In politics you will earn your bread."
So I never played with dolls or 'lectric trains,
And I cuted for photographers in his campaign,
And I looked so cute in those distant times
That now they're going to execute me for war crimes.) bis

When daddy won the congressional race,
In the City Council I assumed his place.
"Fight all appropriations," he said to me,
"You're the only member from the G. O. P."
And on budget votes I fought about dimes,
So now they're going to execute me for war crimes.) bis

When daddy became a Congressman,
He told me all the details of his plan.
As soon as he moved on up the stair,
The seat would be mine because I am his heir,
And I won with the help of the New York Times,
So now they're going to execute me for war crimes.) bis

If it came to war his advice was blunt:
"Always give the President the things he'll want."
I always voted at my party's call,
And I never thought of thinking for myself at all.
I sent men to die in distant climes,
So now they're going to execute me for war crimes.) bis

So, politicians, take advice from me,
And never go along automatically.
If you don't want a noose around your throat,
Then think of the consequences when you vote.
If I hadn't listened to those White House slimes
I wouldn't now be executed for war crimes.) bis

* - U. S. Representative from the 14th District of New York. Republican.
Voted for war with Iraq, 12 January 1991

WRITTEN ABOUT THE 1930s, IN THE 1960s, FOR THE 1990s

Several historians have observed that history alternates between times when most people are generally satisfied with the existing state of affairs, live their own lives, and are complacent about social problems, and times when a long agenda of grievances has to be dealt with because the public simply will not stand any more for the continuance of major systems of injustice or oppression. The fourth and seventh decades of this century were, in the United States, times of intense social activism, in which many grievances of long standing were tackled, and some forms of oppression were actually eliminated.

A lot of singing seems to accompany this. The people are still, in this age of mass communication and carefully constructed artistic trends, able to come up with their own songs, their own expressions, and their own ways of dealing with oppression. If you watch how, as the years of war with Iraq drag on, the present "support groups" of soldiers' kin become active, politically obstreperous anti-war organizations, you will see right before your eyes how this process works.

And, of course, there will be attempts from authority to suppress this spontaneous outpouring of anti-war feeling. Oscar Brand told the tale of how this works, in his 1962 Funk & Wagnalls book The Ballad Mongers: Rise of the Modern Folk Song. Brand may not have realized that he was writing on the eve of the great outpouring of political activity against war and racism which characterized "the Sixties", but he had lived through the last flourishing of the protest folksong in the 1930s, and the reaction against it in terms of the blacklists and censorship of the 1950s.

Brand begins by inquiring just what is a folksong. The belief that it could be a "folk song" only if the author's name was not known collapsed early; sometimes the author plugged himself in his own song. Two examples, one anonymous, come from "The Ballad of Jesse James" and "The Boll Weevil":

"This song it was made by Billy Gashade
As soon as the news did arrive.
He said there was no man with the law
in his hand
Could take Jesse James when alive."

"And if anyone should ask you
Who was it made this song,
Just say it was a dark-skinned farmer
With a pair of blue duckin's on
Ain't got no home,
Ain't got no home."

And "Yankee Doodle" is a genuine folksong, despite the fact that we know when and where Dr. Schackburg wrote the words, as I recounted in ANAKREON #47.

On the other hand, one political purist denied the name "folk song" to an anti-union song, originally composed by a miner who had been frozen out of his job by a United Mine Workers strike. Since the AFL-CIO has given the same total and unconditional endorsement to the war with Iraq that it gave to the war with Vietnam, the protesters against the present war are going to have to regard labor unions as their enemies, and I would not be in the least surprised if the songs they write say so.

Brand principally tells the story of how the protest folksongs of the 1930s became commercial in the 1940s, through such groups as the Almanac Singers, the Weavers, and Brand's own Folksong Festival, which has been broadcast weekly on WNYC since 1945. In the 1950s came the blacklists. Preposterous as it may sound in 1991, at one time it was believed in this country that the Soviet Union menaced the United States, and was out to conquer the world through a combination of nuclear warfare and a network of subversives which could include the guy next door who subscribed to The Nation and voted for Adlai Stevenson.* Big businesses, including movie studios and radio and TV sponsors, panicked. From the CBS loyalty oath to an upstate super-

* - If you still believe this, don't bug me with your silly notions. Go to the nearest psychiatrist or mental health agency, depending on your means, and say, "I think that a secret subversive conspiracy is out to get me." Then do what they tell you to. Your mental problems do not interest me.

market tycoon who refused to stock products that sponsored "communistic" performers, the solid, respectable, conservative citizens of America went apeshit. The super-market owner's estate eventually paid a hefty judgment to one of the performers whom he had slandered, but at the time Brand wrote this book, Red Channels was still being used as a guide by sponsors and producers as a guide to whose career should live and whose should die. Among the victims of the blacklist were Pete Seeger and the other Weavers, Zero Mostel, Jack Gilford, Jean Muir (most famous as Henry Aldrich's mother on the radio show of that name), Larry Adler, Paul Draper, and, for a brief period, even Lucille Ball.

Brand takes up the popularity of folk and what we could call "folkoid" songs that was gathering steam in the early 1960s. We have an account of the origins and early history of the Kingston Trio, whose treatment of American folk songs and themes was then controversial, partly through their insipid singing style and partly through their cavalier appropriation of songs. Brand goes into great detail on the legal status of copyrights and other legal matters that accumulate whenever the highly unofficial and irregular entertainment of folksinging is subjected to legal and financial strictures. For that matter, a lot of the songs we've been slinging around in APA-Filk may have been in violation of the copyrights of somebody or other.

The book concludes, after a chapter entitled "The Legal Tangle", with one entitled "The Clouded Future". Brand quotes a certain Robert Reisner, who had an article in The Village Voice entitled "The Menace of Folk Music", in which the author bitched that "When Bikel, Belafonte, and Brand replace Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms, it's a bad scene." Other commentators were more optimistic about the future of folk music, but scarcely any of them could have foreseen the boom that took place later in the 1960s, as folk music became a vehicle for the American people's rejection of the Vietnam War and its supporters.

In terms of the alleged "thirty year cycle", we are back in the early 1960s again. Once again, the U. S. government has got us into a war in a part of the world where the U. S. has no legitimate political interests, and which is of dubious legality, and completely unjustified in terms of our national interest. A long-oppressed minority is out in the streets, protesting that we have no business pouring money and lives down an Asiatic rat-hole when vital human needs are unmet here. This time, though there are still legitimate grievances of the African-American community, it is gay men and lesbians who are making the most dramatic protests.

Folk songs? Of course we'll have folk songs, and the sort of parody which in APA-Filk we call "filk songs". There will be good ones and bad ones, songs which are quickly forgotten and songs which will become a part of our national consciousness along with "John Brown's Body", "We Shall Overcome", and "Give Peace a Chance".

Oscar Brand is still very much with us, to sing these songs and to write their chronicles.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

APA-Filk is available to anyone who sends in a few dollars to pay for the mailing of its quarterly issues. (And this particular quarterly issue is going into the mails in great haste on 2 February, mainly because the rates will go up on 3 February.) As of today, the balance in your APA-Filk account is:

Mark Blackman	\$12.06	J. Spencer Love	\$4.62	Glenn Simser	\$1.09
Steve Brinich	\$14.40	Lois Mangan	\$2.19	Beverly Slayton	\$7.99
Harold Groot	\$6.58	Matthew Marcus	\$16.69	Mike Stein	\$3.21
Cecilia Hatlestad	65¢	Doreen Miller	\$2.66	Peter Thiesen	\$16.92
Cheryl Lloyd	\$5.72	Pete Seeger	\$1.45	Sol Weber	\$1.54

For most people, the state of their APA-Filk accounts, including this present Mailing, will be 45¢ less than the above figure. But the space to the right

(continued on p. 6)

GETTING CAUGHT UP

The high point of the 40th Mailing of APA-Filk was the song sheet of songs from Marx Brothers films, contributed by Marc Glasser. Marc had originally printed up these song sheets for his annual Columbus Day Weekend party, BeyondtheCon. (We couldn't get there, unfortunately, as we had a previously scheduled party at our own place that same Saturday night.)

Since Julius "Groucho" Marx had been born in 1890, BeyondtheCon XVI was the Groucho Centennial. The lyric sheet was subtitled "Some of Groucho's Best", and indeed they were. They included "Hooray for Captain Spaulding" (which Marc has filked as "Hooray for Frodo Baggins"), "Lydia the Tattooed Lady", "I'm Against It", and the crookedly draconian policy which Rufus T. Firefly spelled out upon becoming Minimum Leader of Freedonia. (Was für Lieder?)

However, probably from space limitations, Marc left out the most appropriate of all Groucho's songs for our time: "The Country's Going to War", also from Duck Soup. One critic has called this "national hysteria set to music", and another has observed that

"...war has become an absurd farce: without meaning, without logic. When Groucho declares: 'But there must be a war - I've paid a month's rent on the lattlefield', he is accurately parodying the politicians who have gone into war from some trivial consideration of pride and self-justification. The end of Duck Soup is a comment on all wars: that they are pointless, tending to arise from trivialities, to be rejoiced in by men as a kind of super-game, and won by chance and luck...The film's implications are pacifist and it may be of interest to recall that Duck Soup was banned in the Italy of Mussolini." - Allen Eyles, The Marx Brothers: Their World of Comedy (London: A. Zwemmer Ltd., 1966)

The news media's presentation of the Gulf War as a kind of super-Nintendo game would probably not have surprised Groucho Marx. In our day and age, he probably would have adapted the assumptions and techniques of Tron to satirizing the view of war as the "Great Game". It would have been delightful to see Harpo speeding on his motorcycle through the cyberspace of the computer in Tron, merrily scrambling all the software and hardware of a computer war game.

This omission by Marc Glasser has been made up by Mark Blackman in the cover of this Mailing of APA-Filk. There are quotations from several verses of "The Country's Going to War", and Groucho in his Freedonian uniform, giving a line from Duck Soup that is just as accurate in 1991 as it was in 1933:

"...and remember, while you're out there risking life and limb, through shot and shell, we'll be in here, thinking what a sucker you are!"

All god's chillun got warheads - 'cept for the ones that wind up with no heads at all.

Singspiel #47 (Blackman): In the parody "Stringworld" the Kzin was the Lion character; its felinity probably outweighed cowardice in the author's concept of the role. The jaded Louis Wu was "the man without a heart". In the parody of the Ring operas, Alberich became "Alverruckt", from the German allverrückt, "all crazy".

Roseanne is still running to good ratings on ABC, although last Tuesday's show was "pre-empted" by President Bush's State-of-the-Dush speech. The proposed boycott against her sponsors accomplished exactly nothing at all.

I would guess that "Con2bile" is a pun on the Italian cantabile, "singable"

Jersey Flats #2? (Rogow): Fox has made its mark as a big-time network - it has done to Alien Nation what NBC did to Star Trek!

Sing, Who Me? #1 (Wunder): "My key being the traditional fannish key of 'Off' Harrison Keillor has referred to the key of C as "the people's key".

If you liked Meeting of Minds, you will probably also like the book Van Loon's Lives. This was written early in WW2 by the Dutch-American historian Hendrik Willem van Loon, whose works I have enjoyed ever since I received a copy of Van Loon's Geography at the age of six. (The book's age and mine - it was published the day I was born.) Van Loon's Lives tells the story of a series of dinner parties in 1932 at the Dutch home of Van Loon's friend Frits Phillips, a member of the family that founded the Phillips/Philco electronics company. These two men and their wives have found a way to invite to dinner certain great ones of the past. The book is in the form of a series of letters from Van Loon to Phillips, describing their upcoming guests, followed by accounts of the dinners themselves. The great Dutch Renaissance scholar Desiderius Erasmus is their first guest, and he also attends all the other dinners, since translation from Greek or Latin is often needed. On one evening those great military rivals King Karl XII of Sweden and Tsar Pyotr I of Russia are invited. On another, for the women's view, the two shrewd minds of the Empress Theodora and Queen Elizabeth I interact. (The bearkeeper's daughter is a sharp-witted but soft-spoken, polite lady; the king's daughter is an imperious hoyden.) On one evening Montaigne and Rabelais are guests; on another, those gentle souls Francis of Assisi, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Hans Christian Andersen. Perhaps the most interesting dinner to an American is the one in which Prince Willem of Orange, founder of the Dutch Republic, and George Washington talk about the tremendous difficulties involved in their Wars of National Liberation - the lost battles, the short-sighted politicians, the ingrates, the grinding lack of funds and soldiers. And yet, they concluded, it had been worth it; the people had put their trust in them, and they could not let them down.

D. C. al Fire #9 (Stein): And that's one of the reasons why I almost never fly. I haven't been in an airplane since my parents' 50th anniversary - though I will be again in August, when they mark their 60th anniversary.

National Review had a limerick contest satirizing Imelda Marcos??? But this was the woman whose husband was told by George Bush in 1981: "We love your adherence to democratic principles and to the democratic process." Has somebody been doping Billy Boy's ovaltine?

Isoscan #6 (Marcus): It wasn't me that was "doing something with that 'subways run on time' crack." Ronald Lauder's campaign song was written by Dave Schwartz. The winner, David Dinkins, is now trying to close the subway museum, as fine a collection of old subway cars and associated memorabilia as you will find anywhere in the world.

"Zagreb in '93"? By that time it will probably be crawling with ustashi, or maybe Hungarians. About the only Hravat I know is "Jebe ti dushu!", which I will cheerfully yell at any ustashi who show up.

"Danned from Walden's" is good. I am also fed up with occult junk that bookstore managers tend to file with the science or s-f titles.

"Absolutely, Dr. Fleischmann?" "Positively, Dr. Pons!"

Jersey Flats #23 (Rogow): "...a Chinese Vegetarian Kosher Restaurant." Only in California. (That isn't a state, it's a planet.)

We're all glad to hear that Murray is convalescing well, and best wishes also to Miriam and Matt.

I had understood that "Georgie Porgie" was a satire on the Prince of Wales who later became Prince Regent, and still later, King George IV. But the first, second, and fourth royal Georges were all notorious womanizers. (However, it was the third one that lost the biggest part of his empire and went crazy. There is a lesson here, somewhere.)

Singspiel #48 (Blackman): So Dollar Bill Buckley thinks that "property (is) the most important basis of freedom"? He is in agreement with "The Bonnie Blue Flag", the tune to which a lot of rebels went marching off to treason 130 years ago. The song began with the lines:

This is
O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves

1643

"We are a band of brothers, and native to the soil,
Fighting for the property we gained by honest toil..."

And then you recollect just what that "property" was.

Some of the earliest records were recorded so that you began with the needle near the center, and then it worked its way to the outer rim as the record played. Of course, these wouldn't operate at the playing speeds used today.

Subway Rider's Prayer (Drowne): You may have to change the last line of the third stanza. There are already rumors that the fare won't stay at \$1.15 for much longer than a year.

AAAKRECIN #48 (me); The haste with which this issue was put together led to a misprint on the last page. Discussing the apparent belief of some people that the defeat of the rebels in the Civil War was wrong and can be reversed, I asserted that the issues settled then are no longer open questions. The last line of that paragraph should have read: "It is not in our interest, as individuals and as a society, to re-open this question."

It is unfortunate that the Lincoln-bashing engaged in by Mike Stein, or the complaints of "bias" in the recent PBS series on the Civil War, make it necessary even to discuss this topic. But what would this continent look like if, during the two World Wars, the United States of America and a "Confederate States of America" had taken opposite sides? Considering that both the rebels of 1861 and the Nazis based their policies on racial crackpottery, this would have been a very real possibility. People like Stein would then be lamenting that so much death and destruction in the 20th century had not been forestalled by a defeat of the rebels in the 19th century.

I have been informed by several Neo-Pagans that a "cowan" is someone not of their groups. It is the Neo-Pagan equivalent of "gentile".

Sing, Who Me? #2 (Wunder): Your collection of verses to "Night of the Living Filk" is a heroic effort, particularly considering the hectic circumstances that must have prevailed at BeyondtheCon. If they continue to accumulate, and I see every reason to think that they will, "My God, how the money rolls in" could be the tag-line to more verses than "And it's good enough for me". I particularly like the one about the foundation of Larry Niven's fortune, and of the ideas he presents to us in his

Now, how did that pro, Larry Niven,
Pay his rent while he wrote of K'zin?
Great-grandpa stole oil under Harding.
My Ghod, how the money rolled in.

science-fiction. However, you left out one generation, and the version to the left more accurately describes the situation.

APA-Filk members are invited to send Deb more verses for future Mailings. Let's hope we'll see them in the 49th Mailing.

D. C. al Fine #10 (Stein): Well, now you've got another war to cheer about. You must be as happy as a teen-ager who can give up masturbation now that he or she has found a sexual partner.

In all your enthusiasm about the Gulf War, there is one line of good sense: "The problem I have with military action is that really, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait does not threaten the security of the United States." Hold to that thought. You will need it to comfort you in the years ahead. Granted, the Iraqis under Saddam Hussein al-Takriti have done horrible things in Kuwait. But the U. S. armed forces are as justified in getting into the mess, as a New York City policeman would be in rushing off to Colorado to solve a particularly horrible mass murder there. American mothers cannot produce enough sons, and American taxpayers cannot produce enough dollars, to guarantee every one of the over 150 nations in the world against their neighbors.

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (continued from p. 3)

shows the balance after costs in mailing out the 49th Mailing are taken into account. Roberta Rogow and Mike Agranoff get complimentary copies of APA-Filk, and Dave Gelbart, Daniel B. Holzman, Bob Lipton, Jeff Poretsky, Lana Raymond, and Jane T. Sibley get APA-Filk on their APA-Q accounts. APA-Filk accounts which fall into arrears are

suspended. Presently suspended accounts are:

Harry Andruschak	-14¢	Leslie Lyons	-49¢	Karen Shaub	-73¢
Sally & Barry		Randall McDougall	-65¢	Elliot K. Shorter	-\$2.00
Childs-Helton	-74¢	Bena Mussaf	-87¢	Nick Simichich	-69¢
Sean Cleary	-38¢	Deirdre & Jim		Dana Snow	-15¢
Gerald Collins	-10¢	Rittenhouse	-15¢	Rick Weiss	-\$1.25
Paul Doerr	-50¢	Michael Rubin	-82¢	Paul Willett	-\$1.23
Bob Fitch	50¢	Kathy Sands	-12¢		
Mistie Joyce	\$6.86	Margaret Middleton	-74¢		

Positive balances belong to people who have either disappeared, or suspended their accounts. If anyone knows an address for Mistie Joyce, I would appreciate learning it.

GRACELESS NOTES

As I anticipated with the review of Oscar Brand's 1962 book on p. 2, censorship has again entered the music field following the U. S. invasion of the Muddle East. In today's Newsday, Linda Winer reports on censorship by the British Broadcasting Corporation, which used to be a dependable pillar of free speech before Margaret Thatcher beat it into submission. The BBC has an "advisory" list of 67 "questionable" songs that may not now be played. "Give Peace a Chance" is, of course, on the list. So is Sonny and Cher's "Bang Bang", despite the fact that Cher has now festooned her home with U. S. flags and used it to host a two-hour video collection of songs for the Armed Forces Radio and Television Services.* Also banned from the BBC are "Killing me Softly", "Walk Like an Egyptian", "Suicide is Painless" (the theme for M*A*S*H), "Waterloo", and "I Shot the Sheriff".

In this country, expressions of opposition to war have already hurt the careers of Margot Kidder, Woody Harrelson of Cheers (who "was uninvited to be grand marshal of a New Orleans Carnival parade...because he participated in a student antiwar sit-in at UCLA"), and possibly Randy Newman, who has just recorded an anti-war song.

There is one bright spot, though. "CBS can't decide whether to ship out Major Dad." Shipping him clear off the air would be the best solution.

*

On 29 January 1991, the New York Times commented on a little-known aspect of the curious coverage we are now receiving of the Gulf War. The carefully managed briefings of docile reporters has left us wondering what is actually going on there - a matter on which we currently have no reliable information at all. However, we may get some suspicion from the fact that many U. S. relatives of servicemen claim that they haven't heard anything from their front-line relatives for several weeks, and also from the fact that the media are not being allowed to enter that military corpse dump in Dover, Delaware. Current deaths in combat, for all we know, may be far larger in number than the sanitized figures we have been fed by General Schwartzkopf.**

And look at the packaging we get with those reports! Logos and maps go flying all over the place, until the distinction between war and Nintendo is blurred in the public mind. And there's a sound track, too! However, "CNN is accompanying its garish 'War in the Gulf' logo with some curious choices of music."

First and foremost, there are kettledrums which reminded the editorial writer of Thus Spake Zarathursta, the musical inspiration given by a lunatic philosopher to a Nazi composer. Next comes something "evoking Jimi Hendrix's 'Purple Haze.'" The writer suggests that something from the current Broadway musical version of Les Miser-

* - History repeats itself. During the U. S. invasion of Vietnam, many actors opposed the war, but it was supported by Margaret O'Brien, who hadn't had a hit since Mars knew when, and needed something desperately to hype her declining career. Where O'Brien was then, Cher is now.

** - Schwartzkopf is German for "blackhead". And what do you do with blackheads?

ables, including "Bring Him Home" and "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables".

*

Of course, songs from Les Miserables have served other purposes. Two years ago, Perdita and I were guests at a seder at the home of the Poretzskys. In the preparation for the Passover ritual, Jeff Poretzsky (an APA-Filk member) and his brother performed the filial duties of helping their father put on his trillin. (For those of you who don't live near a sizable Jewish community, those are the things that the King James translation of the Bible call "phylacteries".) As they did so, one of them broke into the Les Miserables song "Master of the House".

*

I am, as the Talmud puts it, "a lion, the son of a fox". This means that I am quite impressed by those academic and artistic dynasties which, generation after generation, produce outstanding people. In the sciences, the principle example is the Struwe family, first German, then Russian, then American. Four successive Struws, great-grandfather to great-grandson, were astronomers of major accomplishments.

In music, there are of course the Seegers. On 21 January 1991, Peter Goodman wrote a review in Newsday of a Lincoln Center concert of the works of three composers who have been somewhat neglected in the concert repertory. They are Grazyna Bacewicz of Poland, Galina Ustvolskaya of the Soviet Union - and Ruth Crawford Seeger, wife of the musicologist and folksong collector Charles Seeger, and stepmother of Pete Seeger. Ruth Crawford Seeger's "Three Songs", composed in 1930-32, set three poems of Carl Sandburg to music.

*

As a new music of protest takes shape for the 1990s, the stars of the 1980s are in decline. This was shown when the Internal Revenue Service held an auction to settle \$16,700,000 which Willie Nelson owes in back taxes. His property in Travis County, Texas includes a nine-hole golf course, a recording studio, a fishing camp, a Movie set, and several condominiums, town homes, and lots.

A horde of 17 people showed up for this auction, and not one of them bid on anything.

*

Two APA-Filk members have sent in, at the last minute, items which cannot be included in this Mailing but will be in the next one on 1 May. Mark Blackman has given me an indexed "That Real Old-Time Religion" by the deities and others mentioned in the verses. For beings and places ranging from Achilles to Zeus, the verse numbers are given.

Dave Gelbart has also sent along some verses of "That Real Old-Time Religion". I am going to print these in ANAKREON #50, so anyone else who can come up with any between now and April is invited to send them along as well.

*

The Good Coffee House seems to have fallen on hard times, to judge from the flier I have just received for their January, February, and March concerts. While the same logo is used, the announcement is written in by hand, and then photoduplicated.

The Good Coffee House is held on the first and third Friday evening of every month at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Doors open at 8:45, and the show starts at 9:30. Admission is \$6, and includes coffee, tea, and munchies. For further information, or to get on their mailing list, phone 718-768-2972 after 8:00 on performance evenings.

On 15 February the performers will be Lisa Gutkin & Company, with "traditional Irish and Scottish tunes, dance music & songs." On 1 March Elly Greenfields will be making her debut at the Good; she is "a talented blues singer, songwriter and an accomplished guitarist. The 15 March performance will be by the Jumbo String Band, an old favorite at the Good. They have just cut a new album, "Mumbo Jumbo", which like most performers' albums and tapes will probably be on sale at the Good on the evening that they play.

(continued on p. 9)

THE JOHN GOTTI TAPES

One important new element, that will undoubtedly affect the protest music of the 1990s, is rap. Rap music, which began on the streets in African-American neighborhoods, has by now become so respectable that the U. S. Representative from this district is putting his own rap lyrics in the Congressional Record. (His name is Major Owens, and he is distinguishing himself by continuing to fight against this dumb war, even after most of the rest of the Democratic Party has joined the chorus of "fall in line behind Our President".)

However, this isn't about George Bush's soldiers, but about John Gotti's. (John Gotti is an alleged Mafia boss in New York City. New York City is alleged to be at the mouth of the Hudson River. Some of Gotti's former associates are alleged to be in the Hudson River.) "The John Gotti Tapes", according to Michael Saunders' column in the New York Daily News of 16 December 1990, is a parody of "Bust a Move" by Young M. C., and is being played on WHTZ-FM. The song is supposed to be sung by one of Gotti's "soldiers", an altogether appropriate name now being used for mob hit-men.

Let's have a cheer for all the fellas,
Do just what the Godfather tells us.
Rip off an arm, mess up a face,
Then drag his butt all over the place.

Courtroom's pumpin', D. A.'s jumpin',
Still can't find all the bodies we're
dumpin'.
Garbage contract's all fucked up,
Just send in the boys and bust 'em up.

Family's out in Ozone Park,
Bustin' balls while the night's still
dark.

You know we control all the broads and
the booze,
We'll make you an offer you can't refuse.

Union leaders, you better listen up,
We got John O'Connor shot in the butt.
The Gambino family's got all the looks,
So c'mon, Godfather, let me bust 'em up.

We always grant you your last wishes,
Before you sleep with all those fishes.
Kiss on the lips when you're ready for
bed,
You pull back the covers - Oh, a horse
head!

Pay off a witness, you can't knock it,
Testify, we'll put a rocket in your
pocket.
Jimmy Hoffa thought he had us beat,
But our concrete solution was end-zone
seats.

Usin' ball bats, bustin' kneecaps,
Got brass knuckles if you really need
that.
Punchin' stool pigeons before they squeal,
A silenced .38 is a hell of a deal.

Sawed-off shotgun will make you sob,
That's what you get when you cross the
mob.

The Gambino family's got all the looks,
So Godfather, please, let me bust 'em up.

GRACELESS NOTES (continued from p. 8)

Towards the end of March, the Good Coffee House will probably issue another announcement, about their programs for April, May and June. Those that still lie in the future as of 1 May 1991 will be mentioned in ANAKREON #50.

*

When I printed the last issue of ANAKREON, three months ago, indications from Washington, and hints dropped by local military people, seemed to indicate that the day after Thanksgiving was the day set for the Big Bush Push into Iraq. However, on 8 November there was a change of plans, and the number of troops allegedly needed for this offensive was suddenly escalated in press reports from 250,000 to over 400,000. Not long after that, the date of 15 January (a new moon, of course) came into the press as the appropriately named "Deadline".

Still, I was accurate in describing ANAKREON #47 as "the last peacetime issue".

And the Man of Blood has further escalated his intended call-up to over 600,000 soldiers. This takes just about every "ready Reserve" unit in the country, and means that he must now choose between the two politically hazardous paths of either calling up most of the National Guard, or instituting conscription.

*

It now becomes evident that the only contributors to this Twelfth Anniversary Issue of APA-Filk will be Mark Blackman (cover and an issue of Singspiel) and myself. If past experience is anything to go by, over the next week contributions will come drifting in from people with a touching faith in the efficiency of a Postal "Service" that is bungling the current rate change so badly that it has just put out a stamp that looks like the back of a miniature cereal box. Those contributions will go into the 50th Mailing on 1 May 1991.

*

APA-Filk, a quarterly amateur press association for the promotion and circulation of filksongs, was founded on 1 February 1979 by Robert Bryan Lipton. It is collated on the first day of every February, May, August, and November by John Boardman at the address given below. APA-Filk's copy count is 60.

If you would like to receive APA-Filk, send a few dollars for postage and the envelope (if the Mailing is big enough to need an envelope). For the state of current postage accounts, see "The Ministry of Finance" on page 3.

ANAKREON, my contribution to APA-Filk, also goes to everyone who receives my science-fiction fanzine DAGON. DAGON is published on every fourth Saturday, and circulates through APA-Q, an amateur press association which is available for postage money on the same basis as APA-Filk is.

30 JANUARY
1649 1991

"Here's to the man in the mask!"

"And here's to the man who'd do it without a mask!"

APA-Filk #49
ANAKREON #49

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FIRST CLASS MAIL